

U. S. GOES TO WAR; 250,000 MEN ARE NEEDED

Senate Talks as Navy Acts; Four Marines Killed at Vera Cruz; Mexican Loss Two Hundred

AMERICAN MARINES
IN ARTILLERY FIRE
ON HUERTA FORCES

Because of Expected Arrival of German Steamer Bearing Munitions for Dictator's Forces, Admiral Fletcher Lands Men.

BULLETIN.

The Navy Department issued the following at 1:30 a. m. today:

"Fletcher reports he is holding the custom-house, consular and cable offices; sniping continues from near-by house. No additional casualties. The San Francisco (mine tender), has arrived in inner harbor and the scout cruiser Chester will arrive at 11 p. m. Expect to hold present position tonight. Names of killed and wounded follow later. Latest news from Tampico all quiet."

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

Vera Cruz, April 21.—American marines seized the custom-house today by order of Admiral Fletcher. The landing force was then attacked by the Huertaists with rifle and artillery fire.

In the skirmish four American sailors were killed and twenty wounded. More than 200 Mexicans were killed.

The Huertaists fought mainly from housetops. Parts of Vera Cruz beyond the custom-house were shelled by the United States transport Prairie. The Mexican garrison retreated westward this evening.

Because of the expected arrival of the German steamer Ypsara, Admiral Fletcher decided to take prompt action. The Ypsara is still outside of the harbor. She has on board 200 machine guns, 10,000 rifles, and 15,000,000 cartridges for the Huertaists. Provisional President Huerta has been doing everything to safeguard the consignment.

A special train was waiting here to rush the munitions to the capital. Shortly before 11 o'clock Admiral Fletcher received a wireless dispatch from Admiral Badger, commander-in-chief of the Atlantic Fleet, who was speeding here with five warships. The landing force was then ordered into ten whale boats and effected a landing on Porfirio Diaz wharf within half an hour. There was no resistance at the water front.

After a brief interval the Mexicans opened with rifles and artillery. The excitement was intense. A steady rumble of musketry was heard throughout the city.

The transport Prairie came in close to shore when the Huertaist artillery fire opened. Shells were sent over the custom-house and dropped into quarters where the Mexicans were concentrated. This prevented them from charging the custom-house and drove them back into the center of the city.

The marines gradually drove the Mexican sharpshooters from the roofs and other points of vantage in the vicinity of the wharves.

The thin-blooded Mexicans shivered in the cold atmosphere.

No Hope of Avoiding War Now.

American marines and bluejackets are now in possession of Vera Cruz, the principal port of Mexico.

The seizure of the city cost the Americans four lives and twenty wounded, while the Mexican losses have been estimated unofficially at 200 men.

The first shedding of blood came when the Mexicans, under Gen. Maas, opened fire upon the American landing force from Admiral Fletcher's fleet.

With the firing of these shots the last hope of avoiding an open declaration of war disappeared.

The United States will now be forced to move against Mexico with all the force of its tremendous military and naval power.

No attempt was made here last night to conceal the tremendous consequences that are likely to follow from yesterday's developments. It means the expenditure of millions of dollars and the risking of thousands of lives.

While no formal action was taken by the President last night, it is believed that Charge d'Affaires O'Shaughnessy immediately will be recalled from Mexico City, and that the Mexican charge at Washington, Senor Algara, will be given his passports without delay.

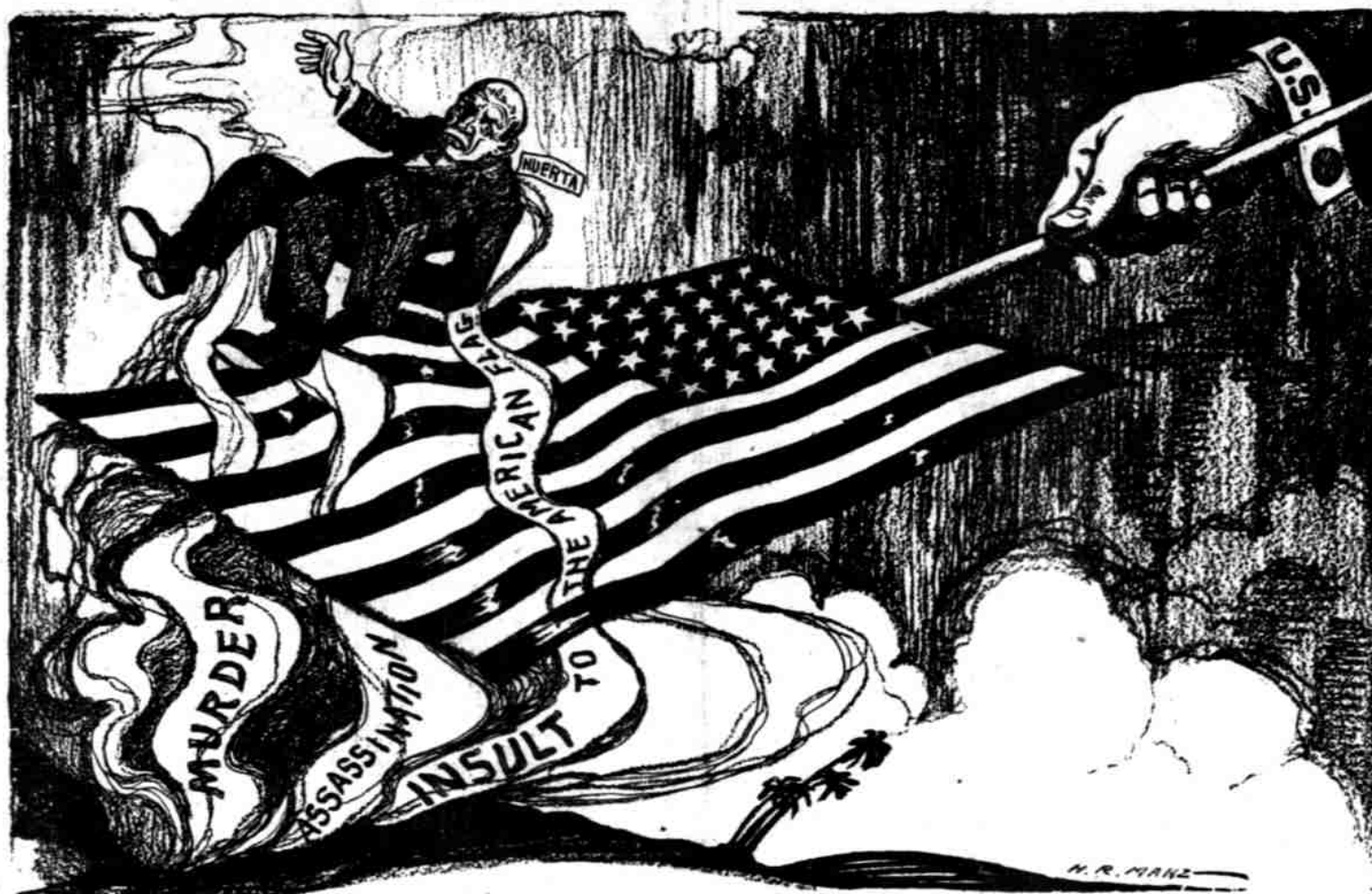
The first news of the fighting at Vera Cruz and the seizure of the city came in this report from Admiral Fletcher, received at the Navy Department at 6 o'clock last evening:

"Tuesday, in face of approaching norther, landed marines and sailors from Utah, Florida, and Prairie and seized custom-house. Mexican forces did not oppose landing, but opened fire with rifle and artillery after our seizure of custom-house. Prairie shelling Mexicans out of their positions. Desultory firing from housetops and streets. Hold custom-house and section of city in vicinity of wharves and consulates. Casualties, four dead and twenty wounded."

This bulletin was filed at Vera Cruz at about 2 o'clock in the

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FINDS THE GRIDIRON RED HOT.

CAPITAL BOY HURT
IN VERA CRUZ SIEGEAged Grandson, Civil War Veteran,
Rejoices at News of Gal-
lantry in Action.

TERM IN NAVY ALMOST ENDED

"Good for him!"

With these three words, shouted by a voice that trembled with emotion, John R. Gibson, seventy-seven years old, last night received word from The Washington Herald that his grandson, Edward A. Gibson, twenty years old, electrician on the Florida, was wounded in the seizure of Vera Cruz.

Gibson, who is the oldest employe in point of service in the Navy Department and a veteran of the civil war is the only living relative of the young blue-jacket.

Four years ago the boy, who is a graduate of Tech, came to his grandfather and told him that he desired to "get out and see the world." The elder Gibson, suffering somewhat from the infirmities of old age, pleaded with the youth to stay in Washington and go to college, and stay with him at his home here, at 192 Seventeenth street north-west.

"I want to serve Uncle Sam, and I'm going to enlist in the navy," replied the boy, firmly, and then his grandfather consented.

Young Gibson went to Boston and enlisted. His enlistment term expires next August.

"Have you heard about the boy's condition? How is he, asked the aged soldier.

"He was assured that the young sailor would 'pull through,'" he replied, and then added:

"And if he dies, he'll die a glorious death for his country."

Mr. Gibson is a contract clerk in the Navy Department. He came to Washington in 1882, attending Capt. Henry R. Williams, who had been wounded in the war. He fought in the war as a member of the Third Corps, Army of the Potomac.

NEXT MOVE BY U. S. IS TO
SEIZE TERMINAL PORTS OF
TRANS-MEXICO RAILROAD

The next move by the United States will be the seizure of the ports at the Atlantic and Pacific ends of the Tehuantepec Railroad.

Announcement was made last night that the United States cruiser Denver has been ordered from Corinto, Nicaragua, to Salina Cruz, the Pacific terminus, and the gunboat Annapolis has been ordered from Acapulco, to the same port. A good deal of American freight passes over this railroad and Navy Department officials have heard that Huerta was planning to seize it.

THE HERALD PREDICTED
SIEGE OF VERA CRUZ

The seizure of Vera Cruz was exclusively predicted in The Washington Herald yesterday.

Basing its information upon a report which it obtained at the Capitol, The Herald, in yesterday morning's issue, stated that the administration's next step would be the seizure of the custom-house at Vera Cruz to prevent the shipment of 15,000,000 rounds of ammunition due there from getting into the hands of the federal forces.

Americans, Who Refused to Board Ship
For Refugees, Are Marooned in Hotels in
Danger Zone, Wires Consul at Vera Cruz

The following is a dispatch from Consul Canada at Vera Cruz:

"Marines and bluejackets landed at 11:30 this morning, immediately taking possession of cable office, postoffice, telegraph office, and custom-house, also railroad terminal and yards for rolling stock. Nevertheless, being driven from housetops, we are masters of the situation so far without using heavy guns. Firing all around consulate, several shots having struck the building. Our men simply defending themselves. Some resistance to navy soon silenced by guns on Prairie. At this time reported four of our men killed, twenty wounded. American newspaper men and several other Americans in consulate. Several Americans, including some women, who refused to go aboard refugee ship, now marooned in hotels within firing line. Trains from Mexico City did not arrive. (Signed) "CANADA."

SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENTS OF
DAY SHOWS ALARMING SITUATIONWith Battle Raging in Vera Cruz, Foreigners in Mexico City
Are Cut Off from Flight as Railroad Is Put
Out of Commission.

Here are yesterday's war developments at a glance:

Secretary of the Navy Daniels ordered Admiral Fletcher to seize the custom-house at Vera Cruz.

At 11 o'clock in the morning Admiral Fletcher landed a party of marines from the Utah, Florida, and Prairie, and took the custom-house, the railroad terminal, postoffice, and the section of the city surrounding the consulate.

The Mexicans resisted. In the fighting four American marines were killed and twenty were injured.

Desultory fighting continued all day.

Orders went from Washington to Philadelphia to load 1,000 marines on the vessel Morro Castle, chartered by the government, and transport them at once to Vera Cruz.

All troops on the Mexican border were ordered to concentrate at Galveston.

Announcement was made that Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood, the active head of the army, will leave for the Mexican border tonight to take command.

Admiral Ridge was ordered to send additional warships and marines from Tampico to Vera Cruz.

Orders were sent to all chaplains on shore duty to join the battalions on the Mexican coast at the earliest possible moment.

Secretary of State Bryan called in the Ambassadors of Great Britain, France, Germany, Spain, Japan, and China, and explained to them the justification of the United States in taking the custom-house at Vera Cruz. They assured him their governments had no objections to offer.

A conference between President Wilson, Secretary of State Bryan, Secretary of War Garrison, Secretary of Navy Daniels, and Presidential Secretary Tumulty. From there Secretaries Bryan, Daniels, Garrison, and Tumulty went to the Senate, to urge the passage of the administration resolution.

The Republicans in the Senate fought all day to strengthen the resolution and commit the administration to the protection of American lives and property in the northern part of Mexico as well as to war against Huerta. Bitter attacks on the administration's policy were made by Senators Lodge, Root, Fall and others.

It is understood at the State Department that there is no active railway communication between Vera Cruz and Mexico City. This is alarming to the administration, as the railway is the key to Mexico City. It is reported that this news has reached representatives of foreign governments here.

This is charged as bad faith on the part of Huerta, who had promised all nations that he would take care of the nations of Europe and the United States by his own forces in Mexico City.

This state of affairs may warrant the foreign marines and sailors in taking part in the forward movement to Mexico City from Vera Cruz, which is planned by the United States troops. There are 10,000 marines in the United States service, and 5,000 of them, it was announced last night, are in the immediate vicinity of Vera Cruz.

The highest ranking officer among the marines at Vera Cruz is Capt. W. C. Neville, who is on the Prairie, from which a battalion of landing forces were taken today.

"SERENELY AWAITING
FUTURE," SAYS HUERTARepublic Will Continue to Maintain
Dignity, He Declares in Mes-
sage to The Herald.

PRESIDENT EMPHASIZES POINT

At 2:30 o'clock this (Wednesday) morning, The Washington Herald received the following message from Victoriano Huerta:

"Mexico City, April 21.
"Editor The Herald, Washington,
U. S. A.:

"I desire to inform your publication that the government of this republic awaits the trend of future events with serenity. The republic of Mexico has always maintained its dignity, and you may rest assured that she will continue to do so always. I beg to draw your attention to what the Mexican government has to say in this respect.

HUERTA."

MORE MARINES TO MEXICO.

Special to The Washington Herald.

San Francisco, April 21.—The cruiser Maryland, with 300 marines, will sail for Mexico tonight or early tomorrow.

The cruiser South Dakota, with 400 marines on board, will arrive here tonight from the Bremerton Navy Yard. After taking on 100 additional marines she will sail for Mexico, accompanied by the collier Jupiter, carrying 300 marines.

The Cleveland and the protected cruiser Buffalo, both carrying marines, will sail for Mexico before Sunday. There is much activity at the Bremerton Navy Yard, where the Colorado, West Virginia, and Chattanooga are being fitted out at top speed for service. There are four transports in the San Francisco harbor, the Buford, Sherman, Crook, and Logan.

Second, that orders to move will go to about 100 garrisoned ports in the United States before 12 o'clock today.

Any movement of the militia or the concentration will depend upon the President and his call for volunteers.

The most alarming news in addition to the killing and wounding of American marines and sailors at Vera Cruz is afloat tonight.

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BANDIT JOINS SUN YAT SEN.

Shanghai, April 21.—"White Wolf," notorious Chinese bandit, has joined forces with Dr. Sun Yat Sen, former Provisional President of China, in an attempt to overthrow the government of President Yuan Shi Kai.

A proclamation from "White Wolf" appeared here today, and called on the residents of Southern China to join in an effort to "free the country from the oppressive yoke of the traitor, Yuan Shi Kai."

REFUGEES REACH VERA CRUZ.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

Vera Cruz, April 21.—Two sections of the special train bearing refugees from Mexico City have arrived here. A third section is expected to arrive tonight. Most of the passengers on board the train are Americans, the majority being women and children. There was no evidence of alarm among these people when they arrived here.

FORT BLISS PRISONERS MENACE.

El Paso, April 21.—Military and municipal authorities are agreed that the intentment of the Mexican federal prisoners at Fort Bliss is a menace to El Paso at this time. It is probable that an effort will be made to move the prisoners somewhere into the interior. In the event Juarez should assume an attitude of belligerence toward the United States, as a result of the Vera Cruz incident, the situation might prove serious.

"WAR RESOLUTION"
STILL DISCUSSED IN
SENATE AT 2:30 A. M.Senator Clapp Begins Extended Speech—
Poindexter Raises Objections to All At-
tempts to Fix Time for Ending Debate.

Efforts to obtain unanimous consent of the Senate for a vote on the pending "war resolution" were made shortly after 1 o'clock by Senator Kern, of Indiana. He suggested 2 a. m. as the hour for terminating debate, then 2:15 a. m., then 2:30 a. m.

To each of these suggestions Senator Poindexter, of Washington, raised objections. He said he could see no occasion for forcing a limitation upon the debate.

Senator Clapp, of Minnesota, took the floor for an extended speech.

The amendment of Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts, expressing in a new preamble the feeling that it was not so much the course of the de facto government of Mexico as the deplorable general conditions in all parts of the stricken republic, the killing and despoiling of Americans and the state of anarchy there existing, which made necessary such action on the part of the President, was gaining supporters.

Delay Is Embarrassing.

The delay in the Senate is proving of grave embarrassment to the administration. At the War Department it is frankly admitted that the debate is holding up action by that department of the government.

The most striking speech of the whole day of debating was that made by Senator Root, of New York, who attacked the administration's foreign policy. The speech of Senator Root held the attention of the Senate for more than an hour.

Following the speech of Senator Lodge, in which the Wilson-Bryan foreign policy was attacked, the Root speech came as a salt in a raw wound.

At 11:30 last night Senator Kern, of Indiana, Democratic floor leader, endeavored to obtain unanimous consent to vote on the resolution at 1 a. m. Immediately Senator Bristow objected. He said that there were many Senators who desired to speak on the resolution now pending, and that under no circumstances could the debate be shut off at this time.

Senator Hitchcock, of Nebraska, was on his feet at the time, waiting for an opportunity to begin his own attack on the administration's general foreign policy.

Attack by President.

Senator Bristow announced he probably would not vote for the resolution, but he would not vote for it under any circumstances unless the Lodge amendment was adopted. He said he was not ready to declare war on Mexico. In denouncing the President Senator Bristow said:

"He has sacrificed the lives of 100 Mexicans unnecessarily and the lives of the marines, and all in the name of peace. No man can tell where the action of this day will lead the people of the United States.

"We cringe before Great Britain and surrender on the tolls question because we were forced by Japan and sacrificed our national honor in so doing, and we bring up like a lion at little Mexico."

Senator Bristow declared that it would cost many lives and millions of treasure and that the United States will have to stay in Mexico for many years and police the country.

Toucheing Picture of War.

Mr. Root, in his speech, declared that when the Senate had acted on the resolution reported yesterday by the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs the country would be plunged into a war with consequences that no man could foretell. He gave a touch of pathos to his address when he asserted impressively that

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CHALONER GETS \$7,000 RAISE.

Special to The Washington Herald.

New York, April 21.—John Armstrong Chaloner today obtained an order from Justice Gleeserich permitting him to spend \$24,000 a year from his income, instead of only \$17,000, as formerly.

REBELS TO JOIN HUERTA
AGAINST U. S., THEY HINTCarranza Time Is Near When
Mexico Will Have to Fight Us
as Common Enemy.

Special to The Washington Herald.

Douglas, Ariz., April 21.—A confidential cable message from Carranza in Chihuahua forbids Sonora chiefs from making any assertions on the stand of the rebels in the present crisis.

Carranza asserts that the time is not distant when the Mexican nation will be forced to fight the United States as a common enemy.

He declared that the United States is meddling unnecessarily in Mexican affairs.

All the rebel chiefs asserted tonight that a general conflict with Mexico is inevitable.

Soldiers were placed on guard over the municipal water and lighting plant at the request of Mayor Hawkins tonight when Mexicans became demonstrative in the streets, defying the police.

SENATE.

Consideration of Foreign Relations Committee's substitute for House resolutions approving the use of force to compel Gen. Huerta to salute flag took up time of Senate throughout night day.

Canal tolls hearings were resumed before Inter-oceanic Committee.

HOUSE.

Awaiting Senate's action on Mexican intervention resolution, House today debated naval appropriation bill.

When it became apparent that the amended war resolution could not get back to the House today, a recess was taken until 10 o'clock a. m. Wednesday.

Representative Hensley, of Missouri, delivered a speech opposing the two-battlefield program. Representative Hulings, of Pennsylvania, declared for an adequate navy, using the Mexican situation in support of his argument.

Secretary Garrison transmitted the report of the army engineers on the problem of flood protection.